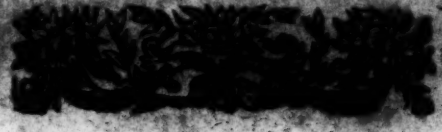
PRINCE CHARLES

His Gracious Resolution

Concerning the present Affaires of this Kingdome, presented to His sacred MAIESTY by Doctor *Duppa*, Bishop of *Salisbury*, in a Speech delivered in the PRINCES behalfe, for a sudden Accomodation of Peace between His *Majesty*, and His High Court of *Parliament*.

AS ALSO,

His Highnesse humble request to His MAIESTY, in behalfe of sundry Commanders taken prisoners by the KINGS Army.



First printed at *Oxford* by *Leonard Lichfield*, and now reprinted at *London* for JOHN RIVERS.

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PRINCE CHARLES

His gracious resolution concerning the affaires of this KINGDOME.

MAy it please your sacred Majesty, I am by the commands of that lively Image of your Royall virtues, your gracious Sonne, our hopefull Prince *Charles*, first, to make an humble tender of his duty to your Majesty, and then to remonstrate to your supreme wisdome the sense His Highnesse hath in these so tender yeers of the calamitous and intollerable afflictions that march as it were *magno Caterva*, through your Majesties Dominions, and the resolution his gracious desire hath fixt on, (with your Majesties favourable allowance) for their sudden cure and remedy; Your Highnesse was pleased in his infancy to commit the Prince, the darling and little eye of this Kingdome, to my tuition, and without arrogating any thing to my owne paines (in that *absit jactantia verbum*) I must assure your Majesty in his very disposition then appeared the true character of Royaltie, written by the hand of nature in the faire Table of his mind; and though *nulla Cæsaris* was not then in his reach, it being not capable in so young yeares of

the use of reason, yet that strong impression was in his soule to [redacted] mo[redacted] th[redacted] ag[redacted] tio[redacted] joy of the [redacted] and comfort of your Majesty, may be conjectured by this, that he does with so much tendernes and griefe relent the distractions and dissentions, teeming in every place of your Majesties dominions, and with much earnestnesse, beseech your goodnesse to accept from me his intentions and resolutions concerning the composing these differences, which certainly have not been infused into the Prince His Highnesse, by any counsels or perswasions of mine, or any other that attend his gracious person, but are meerly the issues of his owne *Plenitude*, the conceptions of his excellent and inherent Fancy. He is not ignorant (as saves his Highnesse, and do injoyned me to informe your Majesty) that the injuries and disobediences which have been attempted against your Royall dignity, by divers of your subjects, ought not to be put up without punishing the offenders; but his Highnesse humbly beseeches you to make more use of your mercy then justice; and surely in that (under your Royall pardon) the judicious infant hath delivered that which heaven commands, and commends to Rulers of the Earth, namely, to shew mercy; will shew mercy to the merciful; but your sacred goodnesse is so well skilled in all the works of mercy, that it does appeare a needlesse labour in his Highnesse to incite your disposition to that which is already as inseparable to your Royall nature, as is your reason. The particular, (at please your Majesty) in which His Grace implores (for his sake) your compassion, is, that you would graciously be pleased to let no further prosecution of justice, or punishment, be used against the persons of Captaine *Lilburne*, and others of the Parliaments Commanders now prisoners here, and by the severe Letter of the Law condemned

ned to death, his Highneſſe beleeving, and not without reaſon (the Parliament having declared as much) that whatſoever punishment ſhall be inflicted on them, the ſame will be extended to the perſons of ſuch noble Gentlemen as in your Majeſties ſervice by the uncertaine chance of war have been made their Captives. And ſurely my opinion in that is concurrent with that of the Princes: beſides, there can be no greater ornament to Imperiall Majeſty, then to remit the offences of their Subjects, eſpecially when it is apparent they were not intentionall nor malicious offences, as my charity induces me to beleeve their Captaines never entertained the meaneſt thought of diſloyalty to your ſacred perſon or dignity, but came into the field as it were in the Company, and by the examples of their neighbours; nor ſhould a publicke crime be attributed to a few private men, ſuch as theſe are, who having the authority of Parliament for their putting on Armes, beleeve in their mixed Conſciences, it was warrant ſufficient for them to doe their endeavours in theſe unhappy Civill warres. For the generall State of the Kingdome now diſtected into ſeverall factions and diſtractions, the Prince hath oftentimes even with teares bewailed to me and others the miſeries which oppreſſively are diffuſed throughout your Majeſties (his royall fathers) dominions, of which, though his yet budding reaſon cannot comprehend the abſolute cauſes; yet he gives a ſhrewd gueſſe at them, far above the expectation of his tender yeeres: hee hath informed mee out of his owne Genius, Royall Sir, that hee conceives buſineſſes have beene tranſacted between your ſacred Selfe and your high Court of Parliament, with too much acrimony and violence, for as much as his ſmall reading had informed his underſtanding, he had gathered, that the *Engliſh* Parliaments were the beſt and moſt neceſſary Counſellors of the *Engliſh* Kings, and then againe complained hee was feareſull your Majeſty had beene miſ-informed againſt your Parliament by ſome, who for their owne pernicious ends, affected the fomenta-

tion and continuance of these dissentions: so prettily reasoning the causes and effects of these distractions, that in truth with much joy I heard his Highnesse resembling him to that young hopefull Monarch of this Nation, *Edward* the sixth, who was indued with an inspired wisdome above his yeeres; concluding with my selfe, that if that Kingdome were to be held unhappy that had a child to their King, how fortunate and blessed were ours, that had a Prince, who, though in yeeres a child, was a man in the purity and solidnesse of his discretion another *Salomon*; that (when heaven takes your Majesty from us) might sit upon the throne of his father *David* and governe his people *Israel* with wisdome and equity: and surely we may believe, that heaven, as it hath conferred an eminent dignity upon Princes, transcending that of other inferiour persons, it hath likewise furnished and adorned them with more select and superlative understandings and indowments of the mind then are in other men.

But to his Highnesse resolution, with which hee desired me to acquaint your sacred Majesty, hee doth first resolve, that if God should please to take your Majesty from him and us (which in his mercy wee all hope hee will not) during the time of these afflictions and distractions, that hee a childe should then come to a Scepter so incumbred, a Kingdome so perplexed and rent in pieces with civill troubles, that it were impossible for him ever to quench the wildfire of these distractions, which out of the confidence of his weaknesse, and the inabilities of his youth, would increase past his extinguishment, and so diminish the Royalty of this Crowne; that he should be impossibilited for ever attaining to the full Imperiall State and absolute Monarchall dignity of his famous ancestors, a torture I know to the greatnesse of his spirit, far more intolerable than death it selfe. Next, may it please your Majesty, he resolves, that if these bloody and inhumane wars run thus through the body of this Kingdome, that as their subsequents must necessarily follow, devastations, ruines of Cities and Townes by fire and sword,

murthers

murthers of men, women and children by the crueley and barbarousnesse of the Souldiers, the utter extirpation of Gods true Religion and worship, sects and schismes usurping the face of truth, and bewitching the mindes of ignorant minded people: All which misfortunes he imagines are reflexive on his gracious selfe: as he is your sonne and (if God doe not for our sinnes take him away from us) must succeed your Grace in the royalties of this and your other Dominions; the townes or Cities that shall or have been ruined in these wars, his Highnesse accounts as part of his patrimony rioted from his inheritance; the subjects your Majesty loses, he concludes might have lived to have been his, and believes that their decreasing is a diminution to his power and the abilities of this Kingdome. Finally, he takes to heart to all the evills which now overspread the face of this our earth, that they almost include his gentle and sweet disposition to an unwelcome melancholly; that it may prove prejudiciall to his health and our hopes. And truly, to please your Majesty, if when your wisdome shall fully take it into your gracious consideration, nothing can be more destructive to the obedience which the subject of *England* (should the Prince ever arrive to be King) ought to pay his Highnesse, when the remembrance of these warres lapsing in your raigne: the people who alwayes believe of times past according to the traditions they have from their father, being apt to credit that those bloody mischiefes were onely occasioned by your Majesty; and so your memory will be nothing grateful to posterity; and where they doe not affect the memory of the father, hardly can that various beast, the multitude, ever be induced to love and reverence the sonne. Besides, should the wars continue, what insufferable daily miseries must this wretched Kingdome expect, when all places shall onely be, as it were, constant scenes where Tragedies are daily acted; and for that Phenix, true Religion, which hath long beautified this Nation, if she expire by the malignity of these wars, we must not expect a new one will miraculously arise out of

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the parents shoes; a new coat then may put on a new one, it will rather be a Harpy, than a Phenix, some strange compound of sundry ichifaces, defacing the beauty of the Church of God, or perhaps every man will be of his owne Religion, or else be of none at all.

And what a strange and uncouth metamorphose this will be, your Majesty may judge, and to describe the Serpent while it is in the Egge, left it brought forth, it grows up a Dragon formidable for its poysonous venome to all your Dominions. In the Princes name, therefore, most dread Soveraigne, and by his appointment and for his sake, who is the staffe and prop of your age, and the growing hope of this Kingdome, I am to beseech your Majesty to thinke on some way for a speedy Accommodation betwixt your Self and the honourable your High Court of Parliament. The Prince, your gracious and hopefull Sonne intreats it, your Nobles hope and expect it, and briefly, as the meane support of your Royall dignity, and the prosperity of all your Kingdome, your people bleed with these wounds, and groane under the burthen of warre; implore it from your goodnesse; sue all their salvation especiall for your Princely favours, for whom I am now employed, an inelegant Orator, graciously to perfome it. And in begging your Royall pardon, if the zeale I have to the Cause and your Majesties service, have made me transgresse my Commission, I beseech him in whose hands are all the corners of the earth, and the hearts of Princes, to give no delle then [illegible] days to your reigne over us, in peace, prosperity and plenty.

FINIS.